

201

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Gerzyna Blitsa 39  
 Hotel Astoria

### Red Baltic Fleet School

Location: Hotel Astoria, LENINGRAD.  
 Type: Agent training school. First independent, later under Red Army.  
 When Established: In or Prior to 1941.  
 Teachers: Included former Estonian Communist leader, LAURISTEN, and the Russian boxer STEPULOW.  
 Students: Approximately 200, 50 of whom were women. Students were recruited secretly from among mobilized and evacuated Estonians in ships and factories, many of whom were unsympathetic to the Soviet cause, and only allowed themselves to be recruited in order to return home.  
 Living Conditions: The food was good, although many townspeople went hungry. Students were allowed comparative freedom of movement. During the entire training period, the student lived with a sailor who brought him what he needed. He could only go out evenings accompanied by the sailor. He was allowed to attend movies.  
 Curriculum: Radio telegraphy, use of compass, etc. This took two to three months, after which time the student was allowed to travel into the country - still accompanied by the sailor - to practice what he had learned. There he practiced shooting a rifle and pistol, grenade throwing, laying and detonating mines, and skiing. This training took about a month, after which he had learned to send with a speed of 120 words per minute and had enough knowledge of radio equipment to be able to build a set out of spare parts.  
 Memory training was stressed throughout the course. Students learned how to circulate pamphlets and how to feign death when wounded. It was stressed that students should read all available newspapers and keep informed about local affairs. At the end of the course, a written test was taken. Students continued to practice what they had learned while waiting for an assignment.  
 For those who only needed to be familiar with the immediate surroundings of the locality to which they were being sent, the training period was shorter. It included conspiracy, recruiting of agents, and the above-mentioned training, except for radio telegraphy.  
 Method of Instruction: At first each officer had up to ten persons (unknown to each other) to instruct. The teacher knew his pupils only by cover names. As the number of teachers decreased and the need for agents grew, a new method was introduced. Specially constructed schools were begun, so arranged that the instructor could teach ten pupils simultaneously. The students were separated by partitions, thus remaining unknown to one another.  
 Miscellaneous: Agents who were scheduled to work together met for the first time at the departure for their mission.

NKVD School

GERZNYA Ulitsa, 39

aka Herzen Street, 39  
in the Hotel Astoria

Type of school      In the Hotel Astoria, Former dwelling of leading  
Estonian Communists. Question as to whether Staff for Agent  
Commitment. Presumably subordinated to the NKVD (FSRO 420)

Reported in      1942

STAFF

KARPUSEV, Capt. Trainer (FSRO 420)

KIROV (rec'd KERROW) Agent recruiter as of 1942 (FSRO 420)

MELBAUM, Edgar, covername for KULTO(?) 1942 info (FSRO 420)

NESTEROV, Capt/Lt. Trainer in 1942 (FSRO 420)

VAKHA, Agent recruiter in 1942 (FSRO 420)

YECHOV, S. rLt. Trainer in 1942 (FSRO 420)